

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 NSC-05 EB-07 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 SAM-01 CIEP-01 SS-15 /072 W

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R 301355Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1788

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CG

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S UP-COMING VISIT TO ZAIRE

1. EMBOFF ASKED QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA REMOVILLE JULY 28 HOW THE FRENCH PERCEIVE GISCARD'S AUGUST 7 - 9 VISIT TO ZAIRE. NOTING THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN DECIDED ON LONG AGO, REMOVILLE PLACED IT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FRENCH DESIRE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FRENCH-SPEAKING STATES LIKE ZAIRE. THE VISIT WILL PERMIT THE TWO SIDES TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER, HE SAID, THUS OPENING THE WAY TO MORE WIDESPREAD COOPERATION. THE FRENCH REALIZE, HE CONTINUED, THAT ZAIRE'S SIZE AND ITS MANY PROBLEMS MEAN THE FRENCH CANNOT ACT ALONE.

2. REMOVILLE INDICATED THAT NO MAJOR NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED. WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION NOW OF A LOAN TO ZAIRE, HE THOUGHT THE FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY ACCEDE TO AN EXPECTED REQUEST FOR IMPROVED REPAYMENT FACILITIES ON DEBTS ALREADY CONTRACTED. HE SAID THAT A FRENCH LOAN PROBABLY WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN KINSHASA AND IMPLIED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE AT SOME FUTURE DATE. FINALLY, HE REMARKED THAT MOBUTU IS "DIFFICULT" TO DEAL WITH.

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3. COMMENT: REMOVILLE'S STATEMENT THAT THE FRENCH
REALIZE THEY CANNOT ACT ALONE IN ZAIRE IS BOTH ACCURATE
AND REVELATORY OF THE HIGH HOPES THE QUAI ENTERTAINS
FOR ENLARGING FRANCO-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. WITH ITS
MINERAL WEALTH, LARGE MARKET POSSIBILITIES, PREPONDERANT
POSITION IN THE REGION AND COMMON BORDER WITH RICH,
TROUBLED ANGOLA, ZAIRE OCCUPIES THE HIGH PRIORITY IN
QUAI PLANNING FOR CENTRAL AFRICA THAT ALGERIA AND
NIGERIA ENJOY FOR NORTH AND WEST AFRICA.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS19728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750263-0102
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975078/aaaaahbu.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD'S UP-COMING VISIT TO ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CG, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006